



# BROMSGROVE METHODIST CHURCH AND CENTRE.

Minister: Rev Ruth Wilson.

Church enquiries to Deacon Janet Thomas

Phone: 07760248012 email: [deek.jt@btinternet.com](mailto:deek.jt@btinternet.com)

Bromsgrove Methodist Centre: 01527 835843.

Church Website: [www.brommethcentre.org.uk](http://www.brommethcentre.org.uk)

Circuit Website: [www.brmethodists.co.uk](http://www.brmethodists.co.uk)

***Encouraging, supporting, and developing followers of Jesus Christ and  
Sharing God's love in the wider community***

**PRAYER:** Let our faith in you, O Lord, be ever stronger, our life with you ever deeper, our praying ever more awake to your glory, our hold on you ever firmer and our love for you ever increasing. Amen

*William Bramwell, Methodist itinerant preacher (1759-1818)*

## **BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

### **Sunday Service 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

10.30am Morning Worship led by Mrs J Hartrey and Deacon Gwynn Bamford

### **Church Anniversary Service 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

10.30am Morning worship will be led by our new chair of Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury district Rev Rachel Deigh

6.00pm Girls and Boys Brigade Carol Service led by Mrs Claire Hill

### **THE WELCOME COFFEE SHOP.**

The Welcome Coffee Shop Opening Hours: Monday to Thursday inclusive from 10.30am until 12.30pm, plus 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month from 10am until 11.30am.

**JOYCE ELLIOT** celebrated her 95th Birthday on 23rd November. We have sent her flowers and good wishes from the Church.

**POLICE DROP-IN SURGERY** - Thursday 18th December, The Methodist Church Stratford Road from 10:30-11:30 – come and meet them on the Chatty Table in the Welcome Café.

**CONCERT** - Bromsgrove Amateur Strings and Bromsgrove Community Choir are giving a concert of Christmas Music on Friday 12th December at 7:45pm here at the church. Entry is free but donations are invited in aid of church funds. Coffee and Mince Pies will be served afterwards. Please come along and support us.

**UPPER ROOM HOUSEGROUP** - Our discussion on Friday 5th December will focus on our thoughts about ADVENT & CHRISTMAS. Look forward to seeing you in ROOM 6 at 10.30am - *Pat Booth*

**POSADA** - If you would like to host our Mary and Joseph for one night during Advent and you haven't signed up there's still time to do so. You can email me at [sheilasharman14@gmail.com](mailto:sheilasharman14@gmail.com) or call me on 07811 563486. *Sheila Sharman* The tradition of Mary and Joseph figures travelling around a church congregation during Advent is known as Posada. The figures move from home to home each day, symbolizing their journey to Bethlehem and the search for shelter (posada means "inn" in Spanish). They leave the church on the 1st Sunday of Advent and return to the church for the Nativity or Crib service on Christmas Eve. ***Our modern Mary & Joseph figures highlight, especially today, the plight of so many refugees.*** Members are asked to take a photo in their home or somewhere they've visited on their day of hosting the posada figure on its journey, these are collated ( a picture board in church/cafe will mark out the journey day by day ) as we go through Advent- bringing the congregation together.

**The Journey:** Families or individuals in the congregation sign up in advance to host the figures for one night. The figures are passed from household to household according to a roster. The figures will travel with a "story bag" that contains: a copy of the Christmas story from relevant gospels; a journal for hosts to write about their experiences, this could include photos, or drawn pictures.

**The Return:** The journey ends when the figures arrive back at the church on Christmas Eve to be placed in the church crib/stable, ready for the celebration of Jesus' birth.

**FILM NIGHTS** - As the period running up to Christmas tends to very busy, there will be no Film Night in December. However, we will recommence on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January** with **"The Inn of the Sixth Happiness"** based on the story of Gladys Aylward's orphanage work in China.

**SAFEGUARDING** – We have a date for anyone needing their Foundation Training renewed in 2026 i.e. 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Venue to be announced.

*Pam Harrison, Safeguarding Officer*

**CHRISTMAS POST** - The post box will be out from today, in the foyer on Sundays and the Office during the week. Please post early to give plenty of time for cards to be sorted and picked up! Donations for postage, or in lieu of sending cards, will as always be for the benefit of Action for Children and gift aid envelopes will be available. Thank you. *Janet and Brian Henderson*

**ADVENT APPEAL FOR MISSION IN BRITAIN** - Envelopes for this annual appeal will be available this Sunday. Details in Forum. All contributions will be very gratefully received. Thank you! *Charity and Missions Committee*

**MESSY CHURCH** - on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December from 2.30 - 4.00 pm. This is open to all children, family, friends and neighbours, up to approximately 8/10 years old. All activities now planned but help to supervise these will be most welcome.

#### **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BROMSGROVE**

1. CTiB Carol singing - Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December 10.30 in the High Street by Coffee1 cafe for about an hour. All welcome.
2. Pantomime - Bromsgrove Baptist Church are putting on a Pantomime from Saltmine - Sun and Mon 21 and 22 December - all welcome - Tickets £8
3. Week of Christian Unity - 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January - we are looking to organise some events for this week - more information to come.
4. World Day of Prayer focusing on Nigeria - March 6<sup>th</sup> 2026.

*Thank you - God bless, Bernice*

**GIVING BY INTERNET BANKING AND CARD MACHINE** - If you prefer to donate to the Church via Internet Banking the bank details are as follows: **Sort Code: 40-15-07. Account number: 81213652. Account name: Bromsgrove Methodist Church. Reference: Collection.** For donations to our charities fund use the bank details above and **Reference: Charities.** We also have a card machine situated by the service hatch in the foyer which can be used for making donations. **UK Tax payers please consider Gift Aid and complete a 'Gift Aid' Declaration available at the back of the Church.** Completed declarations please to Eleanor Wright - Gift Aid Secretary, one of the Stewards or myself. Thank you. *Sheila Sharman.*

## **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: – ADVENT**

Today (30th) is Advent 1 or the first Sunday in Advent. Advent is the important season in the liturgical calendar culminating in the celebration of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ on Christmas Day.

It is also the period when we are urged to prepare our hearts and minds to journey spiritually towards Bethlehem where we witness once again the nativity story and all that it means to us.

As we share the story with others it is an opportunity to “put Christ back into Christmas”. Some take the view that Christmas is too commercialised, although we have to consider that it is the period in the trading year when many enterprises do the most business. We can use the present time, to find a present to give our loved ones, to celebrate the presence among us of the One “born a child, yet a King”. Why presents? To commemorate the gifts to the baby Jesus of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

In our material preparations let us also remember some find Christmas stressful, even a time of sadness if they have lost a loved one at this time, are alone, or struggling financially. However, the coming of the Christchild, the one born to die for our redemption, is something for which we should be profoundly thankful. It changed history, and the person of Jesus still transforms lives, and situations, as his kingdom comes into the hearts and minds of those who put their trust in him. So, when we wrap and open presents we exchange, let’s recall the greatest gift of all, Jesus, Son of God, Emmanuel - God with us. *Every blessing, John Webb*

### **Suggested Readings for Week Beginning 30<sup>th</sup> November - 1<sup>st</sup> of Advent (*Justice and Sacrifice*)**

Sun	30	Matthew 24:36-44	StF 177	Psalm 122	Notice
Mon	1*	Isaiah 1:1-8	StF 171	Psalm 8	Flourish
Tue	2	Isaiah 1:9-13	StF 173	Psalm 25	Care
Wed	3	Isaiah 1:14-20	StF 366	Psalm 26	Serve
Thu	4	Isaiah 2:1-5	StF 708	Psalm 16	Challenge
Fri	5	Isaiah 6:1-8	StF 188	Psalm 50:1-15	Worship
Sat	6	Isaiah 7:1-14	StF 180	Psalm 150	Pray

*\*Andrew, Apostle, trans. John 1:35-42 StF 660 Psalm 27 and World AIDS Day*

**All items for inclusion in the next edition should be submitted by 9am on Friday morning via email to**

**[eleanormawright@gmail.com](mailto:eleanormawright@gmail.com)**